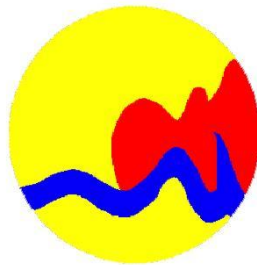


# **West Michigan Small Business Resource Guide**

**CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS  
Economic Development Office  
300 Monroe Avenue NW**

**Phone: 616-456-3431**  
**[www.growgrandrapids.org](http://www.growgrandrapids.org)**



# Small Business Resources

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\* The Economic Development Office would like to thank everyone who contributed information to this guide. We hope this will serve as a tool to enhance the small business community of the West Michigan area. Please feel free to distribute this listing as you see fit. For more information or changes to information, please contact Kara Wood at (616) 456-3431.

**Alliance of Women Entrepreneurs (AWE)****P.O. Box 1201****Grand Rapids, MI 49501-1201****Phone: (616) 224-9366****Website: [www.awe-westmichigan.org](http://www.awe-westmichigan.org)**

The Alliance of Women Entrepreneurs' mission is to encourage ownership of businesses by women. They encourage, support and provide a voice for women who own and operate businesses in order to foster economic stability for these women. The AWE helps to improve the climate for entrepreneurship and small businesses locally through participation in policy-making processes. In addition they provide educational programs that benefit the AWE members.

**Better Business Bureau (BBB) of Western Michigan, Inc.****40 Pearl Street NW, Suite 354****Grand Rapids, MI 49503****Phone: (616) 774-8236****Website: [www.westernmichigan.bbb.org](http://www.westernmichigan.bbb.org)**

The Better Business Bureau (BBB) of Western Michigan's mission is to promote and foster the highest ethical relationship between businesses and the public through voluntary self-regulation, consumer and business education, and service excellence.

They offer many different services to business owners and the community. The BBB provides complaint assistance including mediation and arbitration services. They have reliability reports on 19,000 West Michigan Companies and charities as well as monitor and correct false advertising concerns. In addition, they hold fraud, scam, and senior citizen related education programs and have an Internet business information and verification program.

**Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation****401 W. Fulton Street****DeVos Bldg, Suite 272C****Grand Rapids, MI 49504****Phone: (616) 331-7582****Website: [www.gvsu.edu/cei](http://www.gvsu.edu/cei)**

The Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (CEI) is a department at Grand Valley State University in the Seidman College of Business. Their mission is to champion the vocation of entrepreneurship and to achieve this, they have two main objectives: talent development and the support for business.

**City of Grand Rapids Clerk's Office****300 Monroe Avenue NW, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor****Grand Rapids, MI 49503****Phone: (616) 456-3010****Website: [www.grcity.us](http://www.grcity.us)**

The City Clerk can provide business licenses to businesses that are governed by the City Ordinance/State Law. The Clerk can also assist the public in accessing public records and information.

\* Please see the Clerk of your local governing body to obtain a business license.

**City of Grand Rapids Downtown Development Authority****300 Monroe Avenue NW, Rm. 920****Grand Rapids, MI 49503****Phone: (616) 456-3034****Website: [www.grcity.us/dda](http://www.grcity.us/dda)**

The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is a development agency responsible for many improvements in the downtown area. DDA projects have contributed greatly to the growth and development of downtown. Using incremental property taxes collected from downtown properties, the DDA has financed many public improvements, which have led to unprecedented private investment. In addition to the financing of public improvements, the DDA has several partnership programs to encourage private investment in new or existing buildings in downtown Grand Rapids. A description of DDA programs is available on the website or by contacting the DDA staff for more information.

**City of Grand Rapids Economic Development Office****300 Monroe Avenue NW, Rm. 920****Grand Rapids, MI 49503****Phone: (616) 456-3431****Website: [www.growgrandrapids.org](http://www.growgrandrapids.org)**

The Economic Development Office assists businesses with business advocacy, site development, expansion and location in the City. Contact them for information on tax abatements, Brownfield Redevelopment, and high tech development and financing. The EDO is also responsible for the management of City owned real estate and the sale of excess property.

- The Economic Development Corporation provides tax-exempt bonding for non-profits and manufacturers.
- The Grand Rapids Brownfield Redevelopment Authority provides the process for Tax Increment Financing for eligible costs on contaminated, blighted, or obsolete property.
- The Smart Zone Authority is designed to spur the growth of technology-related or research-oriented businesses.

**City of Grand Rapids Office of Diversity and Inclusion****300 Monroe Avenue NW, Rm. 840****Grand Rapids, MI 49503****Phone: (616) 456-3027 or****TDD: (616) 456-3210****Website: [www.grcity.us/administrative-services/diversity-and-inclusion](http://www.grcity.us/administrative-services/diversity-and-inclusion)**

The City of Grand Rapids Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) is responsible for the administration of the City's equal opportunity and non-discrimination policies and programs. ODI has two basic divisions under which most programs are administered. They are the Office of Supplier Diversity (OSD) and the Office of Workforce and Community Diversity (OWCD). The OSD division administers the City's award winning race and gender neutral Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) programs in goods and services, professional services, construction and certification of businesses. The OWCD division investigates complaints of discrimination in employment, ADA accessibility and housing; monitors workforce diversity and the employment process and provides training in fair housing, sexual harassment prevention and EEO principles. The ODI works to promote inclusion and accessibility in all City sponsored programs, services and activities. The Office of Diversity and Inclusion is also responsible for providing staff support to the City's Community Relations Commission.

**City of Grand Rapids Purchasing Department****300 Monroe Avenue NW, Rm. 720****Grand Rapids, MI 49503****Phone: (616) 456-3173****Website: [www.grcity.us/fiscal-services/purchasing-department](http://www.grcity.us/fiscal-services/purchasing-department)**

The City of Grand Rapids Purchasing Department is responsible for procuring all goods and services for the City. Annual purchases range from \$25 million to \$35 million. Department personnel can provide guidance and training necessary to participate in the bid process.

**Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization – GVSU Chapter****401 W. Fulton Street****DeVos Bldg, Suite 272C****Grand Rapids, MI 49504****Phone: (616) 331-7582****Website: [www.gvsu.edu/cei](http://www.gvsu.edu/cei)**

The Grand Valley State University chapter of the Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization is a nonprofit student group designed to foster the entrepreneurial spirit within GVSU and the Grand Rapids Community. It informs, supports, and inspires area students looking to acquire the fundamentals of entrepreneurship, and to experience the world using more than just margins and bottom lines.

**Economic Development Foundation – Certified**  
**1345 Monroe Avenue NW, Suite 132**  
**Grand Rapids, MI 49505**  
**Phone: (616) 459-4825**  
**Fax: (616) 458-5736**  
**Website: [www.growmichigan.com](http://www.growmichigan.com)**

Economic Development Foundation – Certified (EDF), a Michigan nonprofit organization, is licensed to administer the Small Business Administration (SBA) 504 Loan Program. All SBA 504 loans are made in conjunction with another lender, such as a bank, credit union or individual. SBA 504 loans benefit small businesses by allowing them to access capital at low, fixed interest rates with a 20-year term, and with only a 10% down payment (in most cases). The loans can be used to purchase land and construct a building, purchase an existing building, or add on to an existing building. Options are also available for purchasing large pieces of equipment. If you would like to learn more about the SBA 504 Loan Program call (616) 459-4825.

**Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce**  
**111 Pearl Street NW**  
**Grand Rapids, MI 49503**  
**Phone: (616) 771-0300**  
**Website: [www.grandrapids.org](http://www.grandrapids.org)**

The Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce works on behalf of business through government advocacy efforts, connecting to potential customers, developing future leaders, and leading our community to realize the economic advantages of embracing our region's diversity.

**Grand Rapids Black Chamber of Commerce**  
**1274 Library Street, Suite 1-B**  
**Detroit, MI 48226**  
**Phone: (313) 309-3316**  
**Website: [www.grandrapidsblackchamber.com](http://www.grandrapidsblackchamber.com)**

The Grand Rapids Black Chamber of Commerce (GRBCC) is a local chapter the Michigan Black Chamber of Commerce (MBCC). The GRBCC is the voice for African American businesses throughout the city. Their mission is to empower black businesses economically and culturally by advocating for entrepreneurship, professional development, and community reinvestment.

**Grand Rapids Inventors Network (GRIN)**  
**2100 Nelson Avenue SE**  
**Grand Rapids, MI 49507**  
**Website: [www.grinventors.org](http://www.grinventors.org)**

Grand Rapids Inventors Network is a regional nonprofit organization that helps its members expand and advance their ideas. GRIN is also a place for inventors and creative people to learn, network and share their experiences. GRIN consists of professionals, business owners, consultants, and other skilled individuals that help take an idea to the marketplace.

**Grand Rapids Jaycees**  
**2774 Birchcrest Drive SE**  
**Grand Rapids, MI 49506**  
**Phone: (616) 954-9409**  
**Website: [www.grjaycees.org](http://www.grjaycees.org)**

Leadership Training Through Community Service: The Grand Rapids Jaycees, short for the Junior Chamber of Commerce, is the organization of choice for young professionally minded people between the ages of 21 and 40. By planning and executing projects in a variety of areas, members of the Jaycees get experience in event planning, budget management, supervision, motivation, management and more. Whether you're looking to build leadership and personal skills, help the community, network for business, or just meet some new people, the Jaycees are the place for you!

### **Grand Rapids Neighborhood Business Associations**

For information on any of the following associations, call Neighborhood Ventures at (616) 301-3929

**Alger Heights Business Association**  
2400 Eastern Ave SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49507

**Division South Business Association**  
517 South Division Ave  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

**Boston Square Business Association**  
1467 Kalamazoo SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49507

**East Fulton Business Association**  
1317 East Fulton  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

**Burton Heights Business Association**  
2642 South Division  
Grand Rapids, MI 49507

**East Hills Business Association**  
949 Wealthy St SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

**Cheshire Village Business Association**  
2209 Plainfield NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

**Eastown Business Association**  
P.O. Box 6171  
Grand Rapids, MI 49516-6171

**Creston Business Association**  
1428 Plainfield NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

**Franklin Eastern Business Association**  
754 Franklin SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49507

**Grandville Avenue Business Association**

111 Pearl St NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

**Heartside Business Association**

P.O. Box 230111  
Grand Rapids, MI 49523-0111

**Madison Square Business Association**

20 Hall St SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49507

**Michigan Street Business Association**

1515 Michigan NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

**Monroe North Business Association**

648 Monroe NW, Suite 206  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

**Seymour Square Business Association**

751 Burton Street SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49507

**Stockbridge Business Association**

1052 Bridge NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

**Wealthy Street Business Alliance**

PO Box 6143  
Grand Rapids, MI 49516

**West Fulton Business Association**

738 West Fulton  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

**West Leonard Business Association**

834 Leonard NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

**Grand Rapids Opportunities for Women (GROW)**

25 Sheldon Avenue SE, Suite 210

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Phone: 616-458-3404

Website: [www.growbusiness.org](http://www.growbusiness.org)

Since 1989, GROW has worked with thousands of entrepreneurs. GROW's entrepreneurial training, free business counseling, networking opportunities, and financial resources provide entrepreneurs the tools to launch and grow their businesses.

**Grand Rapids Public Library**

**Small Business Resource Center**

111 Library Street NE

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Phone: (616) 988-5400

Website: [www.grpl.org](http://www.grpl.org)

Small Business Resource Center of the Grand Rapids Public Library has the best books on starting, marketing and managing a small business, and powerful databases, such as ReferenceUSA to build customer lists, or Business Decision for market analysis, not to mention smart librarians---all free.



**Grand Rapids Urban League****745 Eastern Avenue SE****Grand Rapids, MI 49503****Phone: (616) 245-2207****Website: [www.grurbanleague.org](http://www.grurbanleague.org)**

Expanding the economic development of small businesses in the central city of Grand Rapids is the focus of the Grand Rapids Urban League. Supportive services are available for existing and start-up businesses. These services include business plan development, technical assistance and higher-level loan acquisitions through local financial institutions.

**Lakeshore Advantage****201 West Washington, Suite 410****Zeeland, MI 49464****Phone: (616) 772-5226****Website: [www.lakeshoreadvantage.com](http://www.lakeshoreadvantage.com)**

As the leading economic development entity for the lakeshore area, Lakeshore Advantage acts as a catalyst to the local economy by helping to attract new companies to the region, retaining and expanding existing companies; and by helping to grow new, high growth potential ventures into successful businesses and employers through their business incubator, The Lakeshore Business Garden.

**LINC Neighborhood Revitalization****1167 Madison Avenue SE****Grand Rapids, MI 49507****Phone: (616) 451-9140****Website: [www.lincrev.org](http://www.lincrev.org)**

LINC is a community development corporation that understands the characteristics and dynamics of the communities they serve. Their mission is to revitalize neighborhoods by stimulating economic development, expanding housing opportunities, and developing leadership and capacity of residents. They are involved in many projects around Kent County and use a holistic approach to neighborhood revitalization.

**Local First**

**955 Wealthy Street SE**  
**Grand Rapids, MI 49506**  
**Phone: (616) 808-3788**  
**Website: [www.localfirst.com](http://www.localfirst.com)**

Local First encourages the development of a vibrant, sustainable West Michigan economy by promoting local business ownership, social equity, and environmental kinship through education, support and collaboration. Through business and consumer education, Local First helps to create an educated population who understands that they have a choice when spending their dollars. Their efforts contribute to economically revitalized neighborhoods and an increasing number of sustainable businesses within West Michigan. Local First has an online membership directory of locally owned businesses. They also hold numerous events, which are great networking opportunities. For more information, please checkout our website at [www.localfirst.com](http://www.localfirst.com).

**Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budgets**

**111 South Capitol Avenue**  
**Lansing, MI 48933**  
**Phone: (517) 373-1004**  
**Website: [www.michigan.gov/dmb](http://www.michigan.gov/dmb)**

**Michigan Department of Treasury**

**Treasury Building**  
**430 West Allegan Street**  
**Lansing, MI 48922**  
**Phone: (517) 373-3200**  
**Website: [www.michigan.gov/treasury](http://www.michigan.gov/treasury)**

**Michigan Economic Development Corporation**

**201 North Washington Square**  
**Lansing, MI 48913**  
**Phone: (517) 373-9808**  
**Website: [www.michiganadvantage.org](http://www.michiganadvantage.org)**

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation's mission is keeping good jobs in Michigan and attracting more of them. Their mandate includes: Attracting new business to Michigan, keeping business in Michigan and helping them grow, providing information on Michigan and its industries, site location assistance, financial assistance, employee recruitment and training, permit assistance, and coordination of site development, resources and services.

**Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (MHCC)**  
**24445 Northwestern Highway, Suite 206**  
**Southfield, Michigan 48075**  
**Phone: (248) 208-9915**  
**Website: [www.mhcc.org](http://www.mhcc.org)**

The Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is incorporated as a 501c (6), not-for-profit membership association dedicated to promoting economic development in the Michigan Hispanic community through the growth of its member companies. The organization is headquartered in Southfield, Michigan, and is governed by a 30-member Board of Directors. Membership of the Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is comprised of Hispanic owned enterprises; automotive OEM's, Tier One suppliers and non-automotive, Fortune 500 corporations. Hispanic owned companies represent 84% of the total membership and are involved in the automotive, business services, construction and retail industries. MHCC Mission: "To enhance Hispanic-owned businesses and member companies by providing resources and services that aid in business development while contributing to the community and adding to its voice."

**Michigan Minority Business Development Council (MMBDC)**  
**Grand Rapids Community College**  
**143 Bostwick Avenue NE**  
**N. Main Building, Rm. 132M**  
**Grand Rapids, MI 49503**  
**Phone: (616) 776-1724**  
**Website: [www.mmbdc.com](http://www.mmbdc.com)**

The Michigan Minority Business Development Council's mission is to facilitate and enhance successful business relationships between minority business enterprises (MBEs) and corporations that result in increased procurement from MBEs, and to foster reciprocal procurement among MBEs. The council's services and programs provide both minority suppliers and corporate representatives varied opportunities to build mutually productive working relationships.

**Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center (MI-SBTDC)**  
**Grand Valley State University**  
**510 W. Fulton Street**  
**The Depot**  
**Grand Rapids, MI 49504**  
**Phone: (616) 331-7480**  
**Website: [www.misbtdc/region7](http://www.misbtdc/region7)**

The MI-SBTDC is an SBA funded nonprofit organization that provides valuable resources to new entrepreneurs and small businesses. Low-cost training, one-on-one counseling, and market research are a few of the services the SBTDC offers to assist companies to achieving their desired outcomes.

**Michigan Works! West Central Procurement Technical Assistance Center****900 Third Street, Suite #113****Muskegon, MI 49440****Toll free: 1-800-528-8776****Phone: (231) 722-7700****Website: [www.michigantac.org](http://www.michigantac.org)**

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation provides support to the Michigan Technical Assistance Centers (MTACs) located throughout the state. This network of twelve locally based offices provides government contract assistance. Highly skilled professionals assist businesses in acquiring federal and state government contracts. MICHIGAN WORKS! West Central administers a variety of employment programs in a five-county area. These programs include employment services and other activities that assist unemployed individuals and welfare recipients to successfully re-enter the job market. MICHIGAN WORKS! West Central also hosts the West Central MI Procurement Center, a government contracting assistance center that delivers services to a 14-county - area.

**Michigan Works! Area Community Services Employment and Training Council****144 E. Fulton Street****Grand Rapids, MI 49503****Phone: (616) 336-4100****Website: [www.michiganworks.org](http://www.michiganworks.org)**

The Michigan Works! System is a customer-driven workforce development system that serves employers and job seekers to ensure that employers have the skilled workers they need and workers have good jobs that provide economic self-sufficiency. The heart of this system is the Michigan Works! Service Centers. There are over 100 Service Centers providing locally designed and operated services to meet local labor market needs. The Michigan Works! System is open to everyone for information gathering, local and state labor market information, and self-serve career information, including necessary skill levels for good jobs. Special attention is given to meeting the needs of Veterans and people with disabilities.

**Neighborhood Business Alliance****1514 Wealthy Street SE, Suite 214****Grand Rapids, MI 95506****Website: [www.shopgr.org](http://www.shopgr.org)**

The Neighborhood Business Alliance (NBA) is a nonprofit board consisting of volunteer representatives from all of Grand Rapid's 20 neighborhood business associations, who meet together monthly to coordinate city-wide services, share best practices and advocate on issues affecting neighborhood businesses and districts.

**Neighborhood Ventures****1514 Wealthy Street SE, Suite 214****Grand Rapids, MI 49506****Phone: (616) 301-3929****Website: [www.neighborhoodventures.org](http://www.neighborhoodventures.org)**

Neighborhood Ventures is a neighborhood based community and economic development organization that concentrates efforts on business recruitment and retention and commercial corridor organizing in the twenty urban neighborhood business districts of Grand Rapids.

**Regional Alliance for Diversity in Public Purchasing****401 W. Fulton Street****DeVos Bldg, Suite 318C****Grand Rapids, MI 49504****Phone: (616) 331-7370****Website: [www.gvsu.edu/regionalalliance](http://www.gvsu.edu/regionalalliance)**

The Regional Alliance for Diversity in Public Purchasing aims to identify suppliers, streamline bidding processes and increase opportunities for minorities, women, veterans, and ADA-disabled business owners to sell their products and services.

**The Right Place, Inc.****161 Ottawa Avenue NW, Suite 400****Grand Rapids, MI 49503-2701****Phone: (616) 771-0325****Website: [www.rightplace.org](http://www.rightplace.org)**

The Right Place, Inc. is a regional nonprofit economic development organization founded in 1985 and supported through investments from the private and public sector. Its mission is to promote economic growth in the areas of quality employment, productivity and technology in Greater Grand Rapids by developing jobs through leading business expansion, retention and attraction efforts. In this role, The Right Place offers a comprehensive array of services for your business including:

- Site selection
- Guidance in accessing local and state incentive programs and services
- Guidance in identifying financial assistance providers, and potential partners and customers
- Customized research services
- Access to workforce development and training resources
- Enterprise development programs and services
- Opportunities to meet, network and collaborate with peers in the Greater Grand Rapids business community as well as regional and national business leaders

**SCORE – Counselors to America's Small Business****Grand Rapids Chapter #642****111 Pearl Street NW****Grand Rapids, MI 49503-2831****Phone: (616) 771-0305****Website: [www.scoregr.org](http://www.scoregr.org)**

SCORE is a nonprofit association dedicated to educating entrepreneurs and helping small businesses start, grow, and succeed nationwide. SCORE is a resource partner with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), and has been mentoring small business owners for more than forty years. SCORE is a valuable network of 13,000+ volunteers who offer small business entrepreneurs confidential business counseling services at no charge. SCORE volunteers have the knowledge and experience to help any small business owner get the help they need.

**U.S. Export Assistance Center (USEAC)****U.S. Department of Commerce, Commercial Service Export Assistance Center****Grand Valley State University****401 W. Fulton Street****DeVos Bldg, Suite 349C****Grand Rapids, MI 49504****Phone: (616) 458-3564**

The U.S. Department of Commerce Commercial Service offers a full range of U.S. Government export programs and services. The mission of the Commercial Service is to assist American business gain a substantive foothold in foreign markets through exporting. Through their worldwide network of over 200 offices at U.S. Embassies and Consulates and their 100 domestic offices they offer distributor and agent searches, market research by industry, customized onsite counseling and a wide range of other related services. They will counsel and assist you in formulating your export business market plan. Commercial Service partners with SBA for export related working capital loans and the Export Import Bank services. Assistance with export documentation and Country Commercial Guides on hundreds of foreign markets is also available. Contact Commercial Service as you consider expanding your foreign market outreach.

**U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)**  
**477 Michigan Avenue, Suite 515**  
**Detroit, Michigan 48226**  
**Phone: (313) 226-6075**  
**Website: [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov)**

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is an independent Agency of the Federal Government. Best known for its guaranteed loan programs, the SBA provides a wide variety of other assistance to small businesses. This includes government contracting, management counseling and training, minority enterprise development, international trade, HUB zones, and more. Most of these programs are delivered through partnerships with other organizations. It also provides a strong voice that advocates for small business amid macro-economic changes, globalization of markets, and legislative and regulatory developments.

**Van Andel Global Trade Center**  
**Grand Valley State University**  
**401 W. Fulton Street**  
**DeVos Bldg, Suite 121E**  
**Grand Rapids, MI 49504**  
**Phone: (616) 331-6811**  
**Fax: (616) 331-6744**  
**Website: [www.vagtc.org](http://www.vagtc.org)**

Van Andel Global Trade Center of GVSU makes international business attainable, focusing on small and medium sized enterprises. VAGTC provides global consulting, technical training and seminars. Companies receive access to global specialists who provide solutions to engage international markets.

**West Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**  
**1251 Century Avenue SW, Suite 200**  
**Grand Rapids, MI 49503**  
**Phone: (616) 452-4027**  
**Website: [www.hccwm.org](http://www.hccwm.org)**

The West Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to working with all members of the community to increase the economic advancement of Hispanic owned businesses and to assist the professional growth of Hispanic business leaders in West Michigan

**West Michigan Minority Contractors Association (WMMCA)****P.O. Box 630****Ada, MI 49301****Phone: (616) 241-3850****Website: [www.minoritycontractorsassociation.com](http://www.minoritycontractorsassociation.com)**

The WMMCA is an organization of member parties that are interested in promoting the common professional interests of one another. The WMMCA's concern is with all aspects of the minority and women-owned business community (hereafter referred to as M/WBEs) as they relate to the development and expansion of such businesses. The WMMCA is involved in civic affairs that have a potential effect on its membership. We advocate for M/WBE participation on public and private projects. The WMMCA helps promote M/WBE participation in the construction industry by sponsoring and supporting valuable networking events such as golf outings, workshops, forums, picnics, etc.

**West Michigan Science and Technology Initiative****301 Michigan NE, Suite 500****Grand Rapids, MI 49503****Phone: (616) 331-5840****Website: [www.wmsti.org](http://www.wmsti.org)**

The Initiative helps new high tech ventures, including biotech, information technology and advanced manufacturing access a host of services to grow a business. A business accelerator center serves as a one stop shop to help transfer technology to product development. It offers: incubation space, business plan development, access to venture capital, market research, management recruitment, professional legal services, national technology review, student interns, and more.

**Wyoming-Kentwood Area Chamber of Commerce****590 32<sup>nd</sup> Street SE****Wyoming, MI 49548-2345****Phone: (616) 531-5990****Website: [www.southkent.org](http://www.southkent.org)**

The Wyoming-Kentwood Area Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1980 and is a nonprofit association of over 600 area-wide for-profit businesses and nonprofit organizations.

Our purpose is to promote and enhance the well being, prosperity and reputation of our member businesses and communities by providing information, leadership, products, services and opportunities for growth. The Chamber works to remove impediments to commerce and to help our Member businesses do business. We do this by offering access to business building organizations and by offering programs that help to reduce the cost of doing business for our members. In short, the Wyoming-Kentwood Chamber is a busy, active and energetic association whose mission is to Build Better Communities by Building Better Businesses.